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Creek and Seminole Indians. Message from the President of the United States, transmitting a report as to the cause of the difficulties between the Creek and Seminole Indians.

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CREEK AND SEMINOLE INDIANS.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A report as to the cause of the difficulties between the Creek and Seminole Indians.

MARCH 17, 1856.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

To the House of Representatives:

I herewith communicate to the House of Representatives, in compliance with their resolution of the 28th ultimo, a report from the Secretary of the Interior, containing such information as is in possession of his department touching the cause of the difficulties existing between the Creek and Seminole Indians since their emigration west of the Mississippi river.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Washington, March 14, 1856.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, March 14, 1856.

To the President of the United States:

SIR: In obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 28th ultimo, requesting you "to lay before the House, if consistent with the public interest, such information as may be in possession of the Department of the Interior touching the cause of any difficulties that may have arisen between the Creek and Seminole Indians since their emigration west of the Mississippi, and whether any of the Seminole or other Indians have left the country assigned them; and if any, what number, and whether they have since been engaged in hostilities against the United States, together with the cause of such

hostilities ;" I have the honor now to lay before you a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, containing all the information which has reached this department on the subject.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, March 13, 1856.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt, by reference, from you, of a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 28th ultimo, requesting the President to lay before the House such information as may be in the possession of the Department of the Interior, touching the cause of any difficulties that may have arisen between the Creek and Seminole Indians since their emigration west of the Mississippi ; and whether any of them have left the country assigned them ; what number, and whether they have since been engaged in hostilities against the United States ; and in compliance with your direction to furnish the information called for, have the honor to report :

That complaints have frequently been received at this office from the Seminoles in regard to the relation which they sustain towards the Creeks—a relation entered into, as they allege, through ignorance upon their part when the treaty was concluded between the Creeks, the United States, and themselves ; and that their brethren in Florida can never be induced to remove until they are assured that the Seminoles have a country exclusively their own, independent of the Creek government and its laws ; and that there is no hope of improvement in their tribe until there is an adjustment of the difficulties and removal of the discontent existing by reason of their connexion with the Creeks.

It has been reported to this office that parties of Seminoles have, from time to time, passed from their present country into Mexico, but in what numbers I have never been accurately informed ; and I have understood that these parties have sometimes crossed the Rio Grande for the purpose of committing depredations, but have never ascertained that they were engaged in actual hostilities against the government of the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.